



Date: September 12, 2019
To: Planning Commission
From: Amy Brooks, Planning Services Manager
Prepared By: Liz Albertson, Senior Planner
Subject: John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Study – 9-A-19-CP

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE THE JOHN SEVIER SCENIC HIGHWAY CORRIDOR STUDY AMENDING THE KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2033, THE SOUTH COUNTY, AND THE EAST COUNTY SECTOR PLAN.

BACKGROUND

Beginning in July of 2018, the John Sevier Scenic Highway Stakeholder Committee began meeting to discuss concerns regarding the Governor John Sevier Highway (State Route 168). The committee met six times and engaged the greater community through two large public meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to identify recommendations to manage development along Governor John Sevier Highway in a way that respects the historic and scenic qualities of the corridor and benefits all citizens of Knox County. Community comments and the work of the stakeholder committee helped prioritize recommendations to protect the corridor. [The completed John Sevier Scenic Highway Study](#) amends the East County Sector Plan, the South County Sector Plan and the General Plan.

The community meetings engaged approximately 155 people and identified three prioritized recommendations for implementation.

Summarized below are the three recommendations:

1. Request that the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) conduct a Road Safety Audit.
 - A. Discussions between Knox County Engineering and TDOT have already begun regarding a limited safety study in the vicinity of W. Governor John Sevier Highway (SR 168) and Maryville Pike (SR 88). However, TDOT noted that this section of the corridor did not qualify for funds from the Highway Safety Improvement Program. Other sections of the corridor will continue to be investigated for possible study.

2. Draft a John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Overlay Zone

- A. Additional community engagement and stakeholder committee meetings will be needed to draft proposed standards for a corridor overlay.

3. Scenic Highway Beautification Project(s)

- A. Volunteer driven beautification projects in the corridor will need to be spearheaded by existing community groups, property owners, businesses, and churches along the corridor to address existing conditions. Because the highway is controlled by TDOT, Knox County will need to act as a liaison between the state agency and local groups to ensure safety and maintenance of the beautification projects.

SCHEDULE

If approved by the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission, the plan updates will be scheduled for adoption by the Knoxville City Council on October 8, 2019, and October 22, 2018, and by the Knox County Commission on October 28, 2019.



***KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE GOVERNOR JOHN SEVIER SCENIC HIGHWAY
CORRIDOR STUDY AMENDING THE SOUTH COUNTY, EAST COUNTY SECTOR
PLAN AND THE KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY GENERAL PLAN***

WHEREAS, the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission, a regional planning commission established pursuant to state statute, has the duty to make, adopt and amend plans for the physical development of Knoxville and Knox County; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission staff and the John Sevier Highway Stakeholder Committee prepared the Governor John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Study, summarizing public input; and provided amendment recommendations updating the 2010 East County Sector Plan and the 2012 South County Sector Plan, and the Knoxville-Knox County General Plan 2033 as the official comprehensive plan for Knoxville and Knox County;

WHEREAS, the Governor John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Study is consistent with the plan maps and policies of the Farragut-Knoxville-Knox County Growth Policy Plan, maintaining the Urban Growth Boundaries, Planned Growth Areas and Rural Areas of the Growth Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Governor John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Study is consistent with the goals of the Knoxville-Knox County General Plan 2033, including those related to the development of a strong economy, provisions for transportation choices, development and enhancement of neighborhoods, communities and corridors, strategic investments, and protection of historic resources and water quality; and

WHEREAS, the Knoxville-Knox County Planning staff held three community meetings to solicit public input and incorporated the input into this plan; and

WHEREAS, the Governor John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Study includes recommendations concerning highway safety, rural and scenic land protection standards, and community projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION:

SECTION 1: The Planning Commission hereby adopts the Governor John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Study, updates the South County Sector Plan and the East County Sector Plan and amends the General Plan.

SECTION 2: This Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

SECTION 3: The Planning Commission further recommends that Knox County Commission and Knoxville City Council likewise adopt this study and amend the General Plan 2033.

Date

Chairman

Secretary